



False Flax

Camelina sativa

About me:

I am related to *Brassica napus* (rapeseed) as we are part of the same plant family (*Brassicaceae*). I am a small annual plant with arrow shaped leaves and pale yellow flowers. My stem becomes woody with age. My seeds are rich in oil and a vibrant orange colour when ripe. I can grow in both high and low temperatures whilst tolerating drought prone areas. However, I do not like nutrient rich habitats.

Where do I come from? I originated in the Mediterranean-Central Asian region

How is the bio-fuel produced?

The bio-fuel is produced in the same way as rapeseed. The oil is extracted from the seeds once they have been crushed. This is then converted into bio-diesel through transesterification (Transesterification is the reaction of a fat or oil with an alcohol to form esters and glycerol). Alcohol is added to speed up the reaction. Although very similar to rapeseed oil, the production of *Camelina* has proven to be more cost effective and sustainable.

How is my energy used?

Transport fuel and aviation fuel: the bio-diesel can be used in diesel cars or in a mix for aviation fuel.



Image by Vincent Lee (2013) South Wales Australia



Image by British Heritage Library: Plate 203
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